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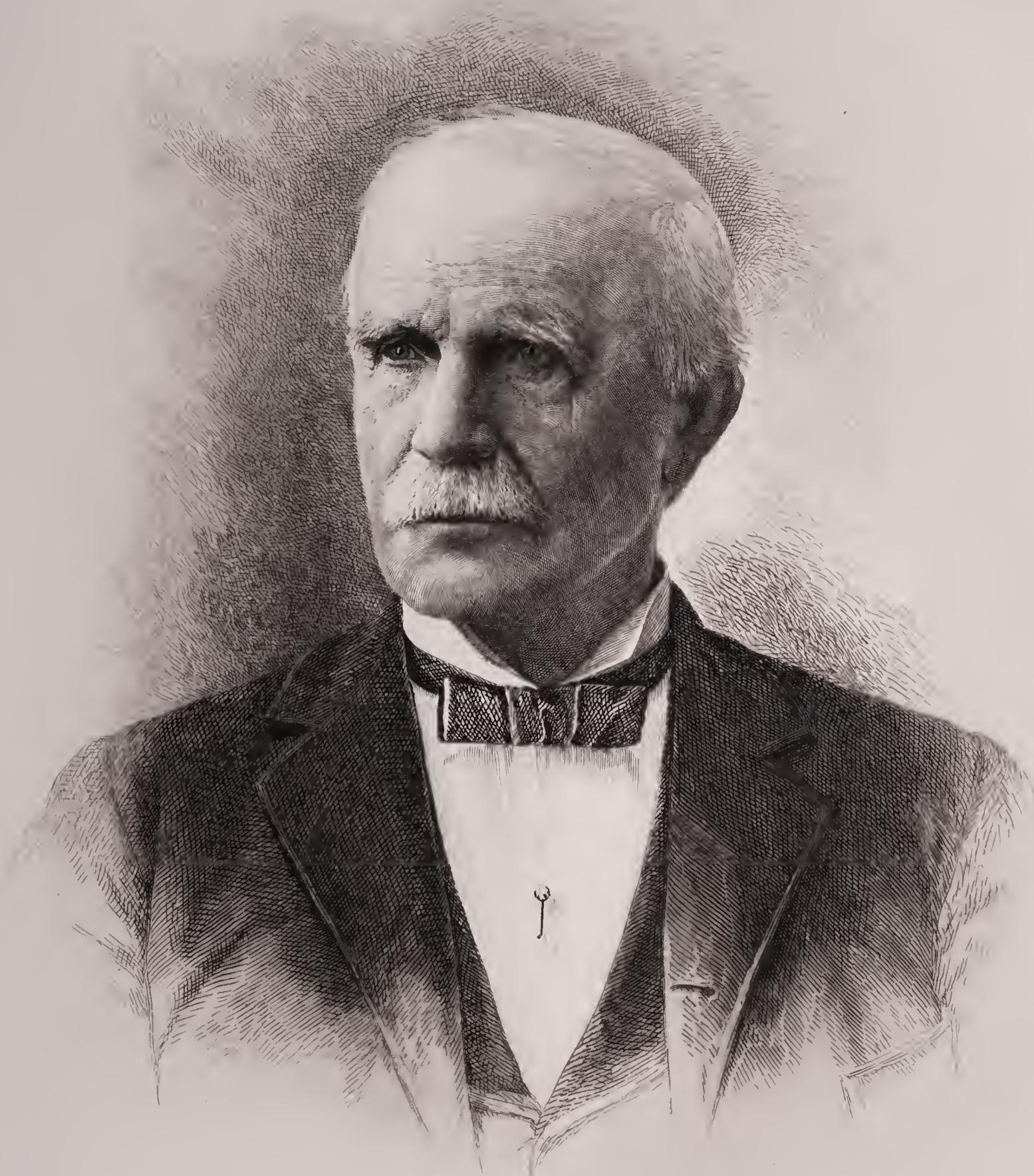
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Stevenson Butke

## STEVENSON BURKE,

CLEVELAND, OHIO.



CONSPICUOUS on the long roll of eminent names that have conferred honor upon the legal profession in the west is that of Judge Stevenson Burke. He has great versatility of talent, and exactness and thoroughness characterize all his attainments. His vigorous mentality has not permitted itself to be hedged in by any caprice of so-called fortune or fate, and his career, notable for its achievements in diametrically varying lines of endeavor, gives assurance that success is of centrifugal nature,—not a matter of spontaneity or the result of adventitious circumstance,—for in whatever line the subject of this review has brought his powers to bear, the trace of his individuality has been impressed and success has come as the logical result of the determination of available means to the accomplishment of desired ends. Judge Burke has gained high distinction in his chosen profession, in the exercise of exalted judicial functions, but he has proved none the less a man with the broadest capacity for the conduct of his business and financial affairs of the most magnificent scope and far-reaching ramifications. As another has aptly said of him, he "has won too great eminence as a financier and railroad man to be classed altogether as a jurist; his standing at the bar is too high to count him among distinctive railroad men or financiers,—being one of those restless, active and untiring spirits who labor in many fields of achievement and succeed in them all."

Stevenson Burke was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, on the 26th of November, 1824, and when he had attained the age of eight years his parents removed to Ohio, taking up their abode upon a small farm which they had purchased, in North Ridgeville, Lorain county. The boy was called upon to contribute his quota toward the cultivation of the farm, and the sturdy and arduous discipline gave him the vigorous physical constitution which has served him so effectively during his long and conspicuous career, while such educational privileges as were afforded him in the district schools served to quicken a natural appreciation of the value of knowledge and a determination to prepare himself for a wider field of endeavor than that defined by the narrowed horizon which compassed his youthful days. Endowed by nature with a strong character, his early surroundings constituted that which tried and developed his powers. With that indefatigable will and dauntless courage with which he has effected the solution of many a larger, yet not more important, problem in these later years, he made the best use of the educational means available, reading and studying when and where he could, rapidly assimilating and systematizing the knowledge gained and making such progress that by the time he was seventeen years of age he was eligible as a teacher, successfully conducting schools at various places for several terms. He was an earnest student, delving deep into the sources of knowledge and bringing forth treasures from the storehouse of wisdom. In 1846 he was, for a short period, a student in the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, and it was within this interval that his inchoate plans for a future career assumed clear definition. Here he began the study of law, the work of preparing himself for that profession in which he has won such pronounced precedence and success.

He was deeply impressed with the dignity of the law, its responsibilities and duties, and while determined to win success, he determined also that its concomitant should be a personal career which would place that bar in still higher honor. He began reading law under the preceptorship of the

firm of Powell & Buck, of Delaware, and upon returning to his home completed his preparatory work under the effective direction of Hon. H. D. Clark, of Elyria, being duly admitted to the bar on the 11th of August, 1848. He forthwith entered vigorously upon the practice of his profession in Elyria, and within a few months after his admission to the bar formed a partnership association with his former preceptor, Mr. Clark.

The budding professional prestige was duly nurtured, and as the ability of the young attorney could not fail to attract attention, his clientage became cumulative, and in two or three years he had gained an excellent practice, so that by the time he was twenty-seven years of age he controlled altogether the largest and best business of any lawyer in Lorain county, the same constantly increasing in extent and importance until he was called upon to serve on the common-pleas bench, to which position he had been almost unanimously elected in the year 1861. For nearly a decade preceding that election, he was retained in practically every case of any importance in Lorain county, as well as many of the most important cases in adjacent counties.

It is a matter of record that he appeared in connection with nearly all if not every case taken from his home county to the supreme court within that period. In October, 1866, without opposition, he was re-elected common-pleas judge, for a term of five years. He retained the incumbency two years, after which, recognizing the expediency of seeking a less circumscribed field of professional endeavor, he resigned his position on the bench, in January, 1869, forthwith removing to Cleveland, where he entered into partnership alliance with the Hon. F. T. Backus and E. J. Estep. This association continued until the death of Mr. Backus, in 1870, after which the surviving partners continued in practice together until 1875. Subsequent to that time Judge Burke has been associated with other professional confrères,—notably, William B. Sanders and Judge J. E. Ingersoll. Judge Burke's practice since locating in Cleveland has been and still continues to be of wide scope and importance. At a time when he was able to give more attention to the distinctive work of his profession than he is at present he was retained in a large number of the most celebrated and important cases in northern Ohio, not confining himself to any one branch of practice, but touching all phases of legal work. He is known throughout the Union as one of the most able of corporation lawyers, his connection with important railway affairs having brought him into much prominence. Soon after beginning practice in Cleveland he became quite largely concerned in railway litigation and business connected with large corporations. From 1869 to 1872 much of his time was devoted to the foreclosure of mortgages upon, and the reorganization of, the Atlantic & Great Western Railway. He was thus incidentally brought into contact with many of the leading lawyers, business men and railway managers of Ohio and New York. Among other lawyers, Chief Justice Waite, then practicing at the bar, represented the railroad mentioned, while Judge Burke's particular client in that litigation was the Erie Railway Company. A very large part of the business in hand consisted of negotiations, and finally the contending parties submitted the entire matter to Messrs. Waite and Burke, as arbitrators. Several million dollars were involved in the disputes, but eventually the entire matter was disposed of and adjudicated to the general satisfaction of the parties interested. It is a matter of record in connection with Judge Burke's practice at this period that for ten years after his return to the bar and the inauguration of his practice in Cleveland, he made as many briefs and argued as many cases in the supreme court of Ohio as any other lawyer in the state.

In 1878 Judge Burke was retained in a series of cases involving extensive interests in Utah and concerning the Nez Perces and Old Telegraph Mining Companies. As counsel in the cases, he was compelled to make two journeys to Utah, appearing in behalf of the owner of the mine, L. E. Holden, of Cleveland, and, with the aid of his associate counsel there, succeeded in defeating the claimants in the claims which they had preferred to that very valuable mining property. The business of a lawyer, it may be said in passing, consists so entirely of a series of litigations that it is difficult to clearly define the character of the same without entering into details in each case, and to follow Judge Burke's career in this manner would transcend the province of the work in hand. It may be said, however, that as a rule he did not take criminal cases, and he has therefore appeared in but few of that class. The most notable case in which he was concerned during the time of his active practice in Lorain county was, without doubt, that which touched closely upon the great question which led to the war of the Rebellion and which had a potent influence in strengthening the abolition sentiment which grew to such heat in northern Ohio. As this case is a distinct part of the history of the ante-bellum days, it is but consistent that more than cursory reference be made thereto in this connection.

The fugitive-slave law was then in force, and the judge who presided in the United States circuit court seemed very anxious to maintain the odious statute to the very letter, though the same was utterly distasteful to the people of the Western Reserve. This latter fact, as taken in connection

with the manifest desire of the United States district attorney to secure convictions, and with the circumstance that the United States jurors empaneled at that time were especially swift in their convictions, made it almost if not quite impossible to secure the acquittal of any man who was accused of aiding or attempting to aid a fugitive slave to escape from his captors. In the case in question, known to history as the Oberlin rescue case, the alleged slave had escaped from Kentucky and had settled in Oberlin, Ohio, where he had sought to enjoy the fruits of his labor and escape from the lash of the taskmaster. The owner, ascertaining his whereabouts, employed four stalwart Kentuckians, armed with the requisite documents, to go to Oberlin and arrest the slave and return him to bondage. For the purpose of getting him safely into their possession, a decoy was employed to entice him into the country under the pretense of giving him labor. As he was riding alone in the wagon with the decoy, and passing through a ravine, the four men sprang from a clump of bushes in which they had been hiding, seized the negro, handcuffed him and hurried him off toward the railway station at Wellington.

The news of his capture spread through the country, and soon a vast crowd of people congregated at Wellington, the result being the liberation of the slave. Several of the citizens of Oberlin who were concerned in the rescue were indicted and tried under the fugitive-slave law. They were ably defended by such men as Franklin T. Backus, Rufus P. Spalding and other eminent advocates, but in every instance the parties accused were convicted and sentenced to fine or to both fine and imprisonment. The cases caused a great sensation in the state and were watched from all parts of the nation. Salmon P. Chase was governor of Ohio at the time and was in active sympathy with the accused. The supreme court of the state, upon hearing one of the cases, divided in opinion, three against two, as to the validity of the law.

Judge Burke had been retained by several of the accused. The time was approaching when they must stand trial. He saw the utter hopelessness of making defense in the United States court as it was then organized, and the thought came to him that he could defend his own clients better by convicting the men from Kentucky of kidnaping than in any other way. It was a shrewd strategic move, with a long reach into the future. Accordingly he had the cases brought before the grand jury of Lorain county and bills of indictment were promptly returned against the men from the south. They were arrested, taken to Lorain county and arrangements made for their trial. This prompt and decided flank movement on the part of Judge Burke opened the eyes of all concerned and caused the other side to do just what had been intended,—as the Kentuckians were about as certain of conviction in abolition Lorain as were the men from Lorain in Cleveland. A discontinuance of all cases was proposed by the attorneys of the kidnapers, and this was agreed to by the other side. The Kentuckians went free at Elyria and the Lorain men were taken out of jeopardy in Cleveland.

In recent years Judge Burke has been engaged in a number of cases where large amounts of money and property and great business interests have been involved. One of the most celebrated of these grew out of the consolidation of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railway with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway. The case was argued on the one side by Hon. B. H. Bristow, of New York, Aaron F. Perry, of Cincinnati, and George K. Nash, then attorney-general of Ohio, while several other eminent lawyers were associated with them. Upon the other side were arrayed Judge Harrison, of Columbus, Mr. Glidden, of Cincinnati, Judge Ranney, of Cleveland, and Judge Burke. The last-named had little opportunity for the preparation of his part therein; and in view of the argument which he offered on that occasion it seems almost incredible that all the time given to its preparation was comprised in the hours between seven and twelve o'clock on the night preceding the presentation of the argument and such other time as could be secured during the



RESIDENCE OF STEVENSON BURKE, CLEVELAND.

speeches of the other lawyers. The argument of Judge Burke upon the questions of constitutional and statutory law involved in this case well displayed many of his strong points as a lawyer. It was concise, severely logical and directed to the real questions in issue. The unanimous opinion of those who heard this effort was that, for clean-cut, legal reasoning, effectively delivered, the argument was entitled to take rank with any before or since delivered before the supreme court by Ohio's greatest lawyers.

As showing his methods of legal work and manner of handling a case on trial, it is fitting that reference be here made to another great case in which he was one of the prime factors. The case, which attracted widespread attention at the time, was that of Butzman and Mueller, in the supreme court of Ohio, involving the constitutionality of the Scott liquor law. In support of the law the case was very ably presented by several lawyers, including Mr. McDougall, of Cincinnati; Judge Ranney, of Cleveland, and Judge West, of Bellefontaine; while the unconstitutionality of the law was maintained by Judge Burke and Messrs. Kittridge and Warrington, of Cincinnati. In relation to Judge Burke's connection with this case we cannot do better than to quote from an article appearing in the Law Bulletin, published at Cincinnati and Columbus, under date of June, 1884:

The argument of Judge Burke of Cleveland, who represented Butzman and Mueller in the Cleveland Scott-law case, was undoubtedly one of the finest efforts ever heard in the hall of the supreme court, where have been heard so many of the great arguments of eminent lawyers who ornamented the bar of Ohio in the last half century. Judge Burke is a member of the law firm of Burke, Ingersoll & Sanders of Cleveland, but spends much of his time in Columbus, at the office of the Hocking Valley Railroad Company, of which he is president and one of the chief owners. He is what is called a self-made man, apparently some fifty years of age, and small but robust in stature. He speaks rapidly but with great distinctness, being easily heard throughout the hall of the supreme court, so distinguished for its bad acoustics. There is little merely oratorical and ornamental in his speech, but his language is to the point and is noted for its clearness, compactness and plain English. His repartee is remarkably quick and sharp. Whenever interrupted by questions and remarks from the court or counsel, he was not only found immediately ready, but never failed to turn the point so as to make it a strong one in his favor. It seems certainly bad policy for his adversaries to interrupt him with questions or remarks. From what we heard we would think it much safer for opposing counsel to keep quiet and let him have his say. Listening to his argument on the constitutionality of the clause of the Scott law requiring the written consent of the lessor to the carrying on of the traffic on his premises by the lessee, as being within the constitutional inhibition of license under the definition given to the word license by the supreme court in the Hipp and Frame cases, we considered it almost unanswerable and were not surprised when the court decided that question in his favor. It would be a great treat for the bar of Cincinnati to hear Judge Burke argue in a great case in one of their courts. He would remind them of Judge Pugh, whom he, in many respects, resembles.

It would be of great interest, were not space limitations necessarily circumscribed, to review others of the important cases in which Judge Burke has directed his very exceptional mental and legal equipment to the benefit of his clients and the discomfiture of their opponents. Wonderful success has attended his efforts, and certain of his victories have been all the more remarkable from having been gained in the face of difficulties that might have daunted a less brave or well balanced man. Among the important cases in which great sums were involved, and to which only a cursory reference is here possible, may be mentioned the following: That of Kimberly versus Arms, in which a large sum was at stake and which he tried in the United States circuit court of northern Ohio, and a very interesting series of cases, tried at Indianapolis and Chicago and in the supreme court at Washington, connected with the foreclosure of the mortgages upon the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railroad, and the obligations of sundry railroad companies growing out of their guaranty of rent and other obligations to be paid and performed by the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company.

As if his great professional labors were not enough to try the brain and strength of one man, Judge Burke has for a number of years past been one of the most active and successful railway men of the country. For many years he was the general counsel for the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railway Company, being also a member of its directorate and for four or five years its vice-president and subsequently its president. He has also been chairman of its financial and executive committees and has represented as attorney a large amount of stock abroad. For twelve of fifteen years he was the general counsel and attorney of the Cleveland & Mahoning Valley Railroad Company, has been its president since 1880 and for more than a decade has represented, as attorney, the owners of all the stock of the company. He has been vice-president and president of the Indianapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company. It was not, however, until June, 1881, that he inaugurated his first large venture in railroading. Having become largely interested in the coal lands of the Hocking valley, Ohio, he decided that it would be to his advantage to be connected with and if possible control the railroads carrying coal from that vast field. Accordingly, as early as the date just mentioned, he had an interview with the president and other parties connected with the Columbus & Hocking Valley, the Ohio & West Virginia and the Columbus & Toledo railroads. This

interview resulted in making an appointment for a second one, to be held in Judge Burke's office on the 16th of June. At that time, after spending the entire day in negotiations, Judge Burke prepared and gave to the president of the three railroads a proposition, in which he proposed to purchase for his associates and himself the entire capital stock, for the sum of about seven million dollars, and to make payment of that amount, if the proposition was accepted, within thirty days after the acceptance thereof. The proposition was immediately entertained by the leading stockholders in Columbus who controlled these different roads. Probably no other railway transaction that has ever occurred in the capital of the state created as great interest and excitement as did this single purchase.

It is not out of place to state in this connection that when Judge Burke made this proposition he had no opportunity of consulting with the gentlemen expected to be associated with him in the purchase; but soon afterward, when the matter was submitted to them, they very readily and cordially approved his action. With the coöperation of the other purchasers, Judge Burke proceeded at once to consolidate the three corporations into one, which has since been known as the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo Railway Company. At the time the above purchase was made Judge Burke was interested in and president of the Snow Fork & Cleveland Coal Company, which owned a very large tract of land in the Hocking valley. Soon afterward he and his associates purchased a very extensive additional tract of coal lands,—aggregating in all about eleven thousand acres,—and organized a corporation which is now known as the Hocking Coal & Railway Company and the entire stock of which is now held by the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo Railway Company. The affairs of this great corporation have been very prosperous, with the exception of the strike of 1884. That long and persistent contest interfered largely with the revenues of the railroad company, but, notwithstanding the severe strain put upon it, its resources proved adequate to the occasion. The entire purchase of the railway and coal property was at that time by far the largest single transaction and purchase ever made in the west, and could have been engineered to its full fruition of success only by one whose was a master hand in financial matters and whose was a prescience sufficient to discern at the beginning the outcome of a policy.

But still another transaction of moment followed those above. Early in 1885, after the reorganization of the Ohio Central Railroad,—a line running from Toledo to Corning, Ohio, at the center of the great Hocking coal-field, with a branch to Columbus,—Judge Burke entered into negotiation with the owners of the new stock of that line, as reorganized under the name of the Toledo & Ohio Central Railway Company, and within the summer completed the exchange of a small percentage of the stock of the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo Railway Company for three-fourths of the stock of the new Toledo & Ohio Central Railway Company,—by which transaction he and his associates, the owners of a controlling interest in the stock of the former corporation, became also the owners of a controlling interest in the stock of the latter, thus uniting in one compact combination the two greatest coal-carrying roads in the west. Railroad men of experience, who watched this series of events with the greatest interest, pronounced this last movement of Judge Burke's to be in many respects the most important and successful of them all. The difficulty of the task he had set to himself can be appreciated when it is known that there were nearly eight hundred stockholders in the Toledo & Ohio Central Company and that the contracts had to be made with practically all of them before the arrangements could be completed or control secured.

There has been much of detail published touching one of Judge Burke's railroad transactions,—the purchase for William H. Vanderbilt of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Road, more commonly known as the "Nickel Plate." The deal was a great one and was made with the most consummate skill; but it is only necessary to make passing reference thereto in this connection. Suffice it to say that the purchase was negotiated entirely by Judge Burke, and only three men besides himself had a hint of it before it was completed,—Mr. Vanderbilt, General J. H. Devereux and Augustus Schell. The purchase was consummated on the 26th of October, 1882. The negotiations commenced early in August of that year; the contracts were made in Judge Burke's name, and, so far as the vendors knew, the property was purchased for his associates and himself. The entire amount of money entrusted to him and paid out in that transaction was somewhat over seven million dollars. In speaking of this subject, a leading railroad man of Cleveland said: "There have been, up to this time, built in this country three parallel and competing lines of railroad. The New York Central has been paralleled by the New York, West Shore & Buffalo; the Lake Shore was paralleled by the New York, Chicago and St. Louis; the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo was paralleled by the Ohio Central; and it has been Judge Burke's fortune to purchase and absorb two of these new lines,—the 'Nickel Plate' and the Ohio Central".

Judge Burke has been active in many directions and his tireless and undaunted courage have

been seemingly inexhaustible, while his resolute purpose and extraordinary executive ability have conserved the success of every enterprise with which he has identified himself. For many years he represented, as attorney, three-fourths of the stock of the Shenango & Alleghany Railroad Company and of the Mercer Mining & Manufacturing Company,—two large and important corporations in Pennsylvania. He was also a director in each and was offered a choice of all their offices. For two years or more he was a director of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Indianapolis Railroad Company, which position he resigned in 1885. He has been for a number of years a member of the directorate of the Central Ontario Railway Company and is now its president. He holds a similar position in numerous mining and manufacturing companies.

No review of this nature can serve to adequately portray the character of Judge Burke or to give a definite idea of his mental power and peculiar resourcefulness. One thing that strongly impresses those who meet him is his wonderful vitality and elasticity of nature. Burdens that would confound or crush the average man seem to rest lightly upon him, and he never confuses the many trains of thought that, in his busy mind, must be hurrying onward to conclusion and thence into action.

Every line of his face and glance of his eye express a courage of the coolest and most daring character, and one need but look at him to see that he holds no half purposes and is not wont to turn back when his hand is placed to the plow. Those who know him best and have met him in all forms of practice for years maintain that his rare success at the bar is due primarily to the fact that nature made him a lawyer, that he was adapted to the profession and that from the time he determined to be a lawyer he made up his mind to succeed, never indulging himself in anything that would in the least retard or impede his progress in that chosen path. He never used tobacco in any form, nor touched intoxicating liquors under any pretense whatever. He never allowed his clients' interests to be neglected, but gave them attention to the full measure of his ability. He devoted himself not only to business, but also to books and study, becoming exceedingly familiar not only with text books, but also with the reports, and, being blessed with a most excellent memory, never forgot what he once learned.

As a lawyer one of Judge Burke's strongest points consists in his power to elicit the truth upon cross-examination of a witness. No evasion will mislead him and no weak point in the chain of assertion can escape his keen eye. He goes to the center with each question and compels the truth to emerge from concealment and obscurity. It is one of the features of his mentality that what legal learning he has acquired from books, whatever he has once learned from any source, becomes a part of his equipment,—he not merely remembers it, but knows it. It is there, ready for use at any demand; he never loses what he has once gained. Usually a lawyer who becomes concerned in other operations to any extent becomes rusty in legal learning and unfitted for practice at the bar. Judge Burke is a radical exception to this rule; he is as ready to turn fully equipped from one to the other as though he had never left his books. This is a remarkable feature in his mental makeup; few men are able to do it. In addition to having mastered all the rules of law, he has that logical faculty, strengthened by long practice, of applying those rules with wonderful power to the case he may have in hand. In this respect he has no superior at the Ohio bar, and perhaps none in the Union.

This fact should also be considered in any discussion of Judge Burke's mental characteristics,—that ordinarily a man in whom the logical faculty predominates is not able to master details, even of the smallest character, at command, while the contrary is true of the Judge. He never loses anything, never forgets, and a point that many might overlook is not allowed to escape his glance and examination.

While engaged in other enterprises Judge Burke, as a lawyer, has kept up with the times; and in the adaptation of old and standard legal principles to the new and broadened issues that have grown out of the great corporations, inventions and developments of modern days, he has shown most remarkable power. He knows how to hold to the old principles and make them apply to the new questions. He makes no claim to oratory of the imaginative sort, but is a powerful advocate before a jury. His clearness of statement, his logic, his forcible presentation of fact and his readiness in meeting any point that may be sprung against him, unite in giving him a hold on the respect and judgment of a jury, thus gaining to him a more effective power with them than could be secured through any impassioned appeal to their feelings or sympathies. In the trial of a case no man ever caught him unawares; he is never driven into a corner. Quick in repartee, ever cool and collected, never taken at a disadvantage, never led astray from the point at issue, he is a power in the court-room, and a lawyer with whom only the best can cope.

It is needless to enter into any discussion as to the business qualifications of Judge Burke. The foregoing account of his labors and his magnificent accomplishment is in itself sufficient revelation. His railroad operations show the far-seeing vision, the cool courage, the executive ability and

the comprehensive mind of a great railroad manager, while his labors in other lines give evidence in their results that he is not only a man of great versatility of talent, but that his successful manipulation of affairs of great breadth and scope has found such success to be not an accident, but the logical result of the forces brought to bear. He is sound, shrewd and cautious as a financier, never taking a step until he sees the way before him, asking no man to risk a dollar where he will not risk his own; and then, when once committed to a line of operations, his courage is equal to the greatest demand that may be made upon it. He has no difficulty in enlisting support in any operation that he may undertake, as he commands the most implicit confidence of those with whom he has to deal.

This review would be incomplete in one important phase were there failure to revert to Judge Burke's career upon the bench. He has been heard to refer to his experience in this line as one of the most gratifying and interesting chapters of his entire life. He loved the bench and the administration of justice, and loved and respected the bar that practiced before him. His judicial career ended prematurely, and it is to be regretted that the rewards of the office were not sufficient to keep a man of such character and ability in tenure of the same, the position being one eminently suited to his capacities and one most in unison with his tastes, as his masterly services clearly indicate. His intellect is at once intuitive and logical; his knowledge of the law exact and thorough and his respect for the same profound almost to reverence. His powers of legal exposition are broad, keen and lucid; his judgment, strong and clear, is impartial to a degree reached by few men; his integrity has been absolutely incorruptible; and his independence, alike of character and of intellect, is complete and fearless. Quick and sharp as he sometimes is in the trial of a case, he always kept his temper while on the bench and disposed of every case that came before him without the least partiality or prejudice against counsel or parties. Can it be doubted that a man of such qualifications is peculiarly endowed for the administration of judicial office? Proof of the great ability of Judge Burke as an incumbent on the bench can be found in the fact that it was not an unusual thing for him to hold court term after term, in the counties of his district, without an exception being taken to his rulings, and in that but two or three of all the judgments in which he concurred during his term of seven years upon the bench were ever reversed.

Judge Burke has been too busy to give his attention to office-seeking or office-holding, and has never been tempted to enter public life. He has, however, deep convictions and strong beliefs on all public questions, and when aroused to discuss the measures and questions of the day can do so with a clearness, logic, fairness and resource of information that cause one to regret that the political rostrum has no attraction for him. His political support is given to the Republican party. A scholar and a thinker, his range of knowledge is wide, and in history, literature and general information, as in the law, what he learns is retained and ever at his command.

Personally he is one of the most approachable of men, and many have grateful cause to know that the young man or poor man has as ready and as welcome access to him as the honored and the rich. He is public-spirited and progressive and has ever maintained a lively interest in all that goes to conserve the welfare of the city of his home. Thoroughly cosmopolitan in his views, he stands a type of symmetrical manhood and of the best American citizenship.

On the 26th of April, 1849, Judge Burke was united in marriage to Miss Parthenia Poppleton, of Richland county, Ohio, her death occurring on the 7th of January, 1878. On the 22d of June, 1882, the Judge consummated a second marriage, being then united to Mrs. Ella M. Southworth, of Clinton, New York. He is domestic in his tastes and his home life is one in which is represented to him all that is best and truest.

## FRANCIS M. DRAKE,

CENTERVILLE, IOWA.



GENERAL FRANCIS MARION DRAKE was born in Rushville, Schuyler county, Illinois, on the 30th of December, 1830, being the second son of John Adams and Harriet Jane (O'Neal) Drake, natives of Nash county, North Carolina. The father was of English descent, and traced his relationship back to Sir Francis Drake, as also to the distinguished Adams family. He learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1830, when, having acquired sufficient capital, he entered mercantile business, afterward engaged in that of banking, which he followed to the close of his life, with much credit and success.

He removed from Rushville to Fort Madison, Iowa, in 1837, and within his nine years' residence there he was elected and served as probate judge of Lee county. In 1846 he removed to Davis county of the same state, where he founded the thriving and substantial village of Drakeville, established a general store, and, associated with his two sons, John Hamilton and Francis Marion, built up a large mercantile, packing and milling business, which was continued for many years and was quite successful. He commenced the banking business at Drakeville in 1866, and ten years later removed to Centerville, in Appanoose county, where, while president of the Centerville National Bank, he died, in May, 1880, at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a member of the Iowa state legislature, representing Davis county in the session of 1852-3, having been elected on the Whig ticket. He was a friend of the famous Alexander Campbell, was one among the early reformers and died in the Christian faith. His wife was a woman of superior intelligence and Christian character. She was the devoted mother of a large family of children, one of whom, William Henry Harrison Drake, was killed in the battle of Fort Donelson in the charge of the Second Iowa Regiment. She died in Centerville, December 5, 1885, at the age of seventy-six years.

Francis Marion Drake, the subject of this sketch, received a good business education and has led an active and successful business life. At the age of sixteen he entered his father's store as a clerk, in which employment he continued until he became of age, when, during the gold excitement in California, he decided to work out his own fortune. He crossed the plains to Sacramento in 1852, with an ox train, taking with him two ox teams and five men. After crossing the Missouri river, in flatboats, at Kanesville (now Council Bluffs), he organized a small train, called the Drakeville train, of which he was chosen captain. At the crossing of Shell creek, Nebraska, in command of twenty men, he had a severe engagement with about three hundred Pawnee Indians, defeating them and inflicting upon them a heavy loss in killed and wounded. His venture in California proving quite successful, he again crossed the plains in 1854, taking with him a drove of cattle and some horses and oxen, and reaching Sacramento with his stock in excellent condition and with a small percentage of loss. On his last return from California he was a passenger on the ill-fated steamer, Yankee Blade, which was wrecked and totally lost in the Pacific ocean September 30, 1854, off Point Aguilla. He narrowly escaped and was picked up on a barren coast five days later.

On his return home Mr. Drake entered into the mercantile business with his father and his brother, John Hamilton, under the firm name of Drake & Sons, in which he successfully continued until January 1, 1858, when he withdrew, taking in part as his assets the milling interests of the firm. He continued in the milling business until the fall of 1859, when, having succeeded in putting the property on a paying basis, he disposed of it and established a general mercantile and stock



F. M. Drake



business at the village of Unionville in the adjoining county of Appanoose, which he profitably continued until the outbreak of the civil war. In 1861 he enlisted and was commissioned captain of a company, which was organized into Colonel Edwards' Independent Iowa Regiment, of which he was elected major, and with this command served through the critical times of 1861 in Missouri, driving the forces under General Patton from the northern part of the state. He was assigned by General Prentiss to the command of St. Joseph, holding the position at the time of Colonel Mulligan's surrender to General Price, at Lexington, and defending the attack on St. Joseph soon afterward.

At the organization of the Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry, in 1862, Mr. Drake was made lieutenant-colonel, and in the military history of the three years' hard and efficient service of that regiment his name stands conspicuous. He took prominent part in the campaign of General Steele from Little Rock, to reinforce General Banks on his Red river expedition in Louisiana, in 1864, and rendered important service. His gallant defense at Elkins Ford on the Little Missouri river, while in command of a detachment of five hundred men, against General Marmaduke's division of three thousand, resulting in holding the ford after a severe engagement lasting from early daylight until noon, was highly commended by his superior officers, and he was soon afterward placed in command of his brigade.

On the 25th of April, 1864, at the bloody battle of Marks Mills, while in command of his brigade of less than fifteen hundred men and arrayed against the combined cavalry forces of Kirby Smith, aggregating about six thousand, commanded by General Fagan, he was severely wounded in the left thigh and fell into the hands of the enemy. The wound was pronounced mortal, the thigh-bone being slightly fractured by a Belgian ball weighing one and a half ounces, the bone splitting the ball and

the pieces being afterward extracted from different parts of the body, excepting about a drachm of the lead, which was buried in the bone, where it still remains. Owing to the severity of the wound, he was not held a prisoner, and after a confinement of nearly six months, his wounds being sufficiently healed, he in October following, by the aid of crutches, rejoined his command at Little Rock. Soon afterward he was recommended for promotion on account of special gallantry and hard and efficient service, and was brevetted brigadier-general of the United States volunteers and assigned for duty commensurate with his rank. He relieved General Thayer of his command at St. Charles, on White river and later commanded a brigade in the division of General Shaler and the post of Duvall's Bluffs, Arkansas, until he was mustered out of service, in 1865.

After the war General Drake resumed the mercantile business, but by reason of his wounds was unable to give it his active personal attention and became associated in the practice of law with Judge Amos Harris, with whom, and afterward with General A. J. Baker, he successfully practiced about six years. He acquired the reputation of being a good criminal lawyer, and, though retired from practice, was prevailed upon in 1879 to engage with General Baker in the defense of the notorious Bill Young, of Missouri, who was accused of murdering the Spencer family and who after acquittal was lynched by the infuriated citizens who believed him guilty.

For the past twenty-five years General Drake has been engaged in railroad and banking enterprises. He has projected, constructed and put in operation five railroads. He is president of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad and the Albia & Centerville Railroad Companies, a director of the Keokuk & Western Railroad Company, and president of the Centerville National Bank. He is also president of the board of trustees of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, which bears his name as one of its founders and its most liberal benefactor. He has also been a liberal contributor



IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES.

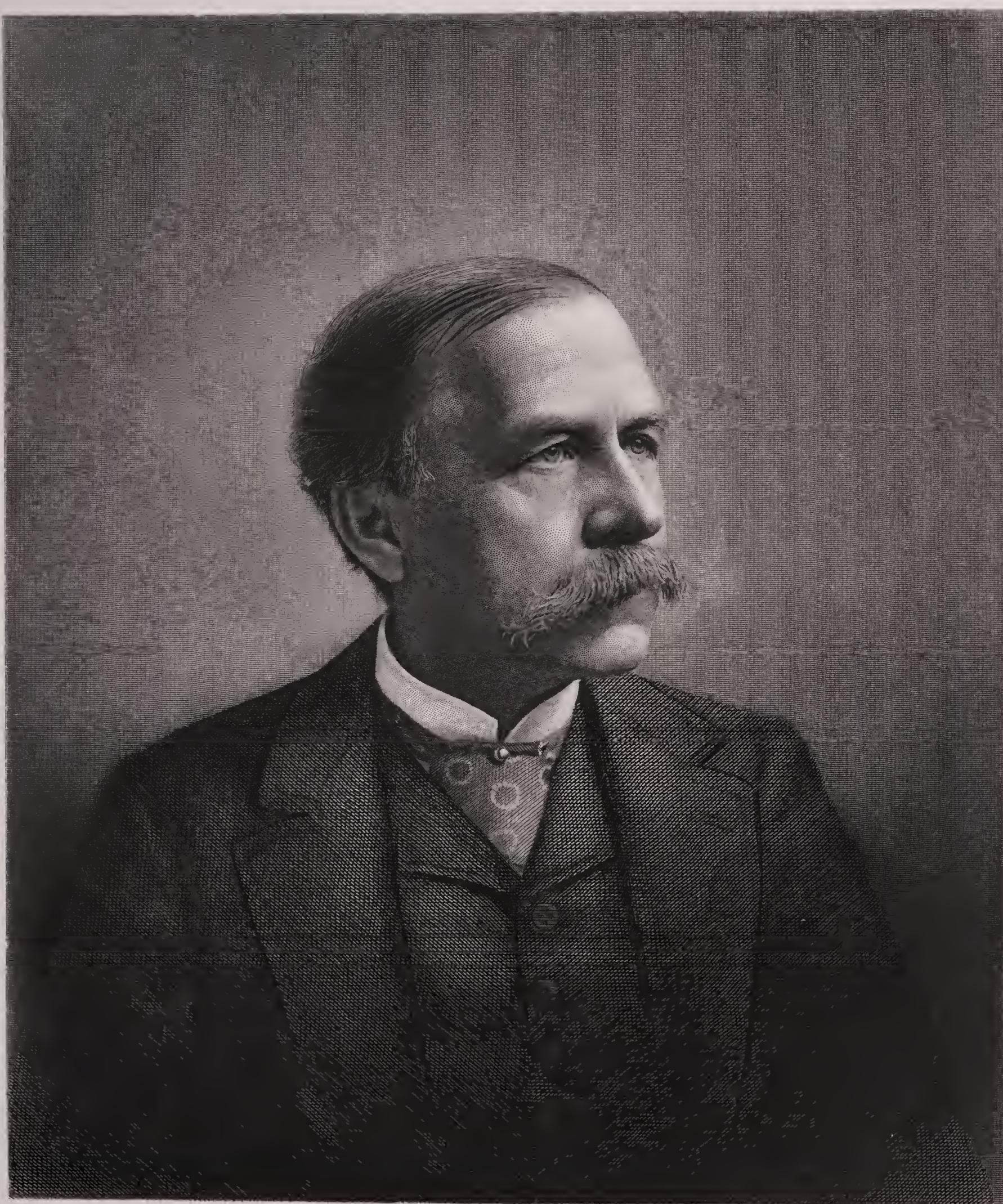
to other educational institutions, to the building of scores of churches, to the missionary societies and the church extension fund of the Christian, or Disciple, church, with which he stands prominently connected, and is now serving his ninth yearly term as president of the Iowa state board. He was honored with the presidency of the national board for the term of one year. In the spirit of public enterprise and improvement in his town, county and state, he has not only been a leader but also one of the most liberal contributors. He is kind-hearted and is a true friend to the poor, the afflicted and the persecuted.

On the 10th of July, 1895, General Drake received the nomination, by the Republican party, for governor of the state of Iowa, and was elected on the 5th of November following, by an overwhelming majority. His service in this exalted position has been one of signal efficiency, and the great commonwealth of Iowa has been granted honor by thus granting so signal honor to one of her best known and most able citizens.

General Drake has been an Odd Fellow ever since 1854, is a Past Noble Grand and a member of the encampment. He has been a Mason since 1859, ranks as Sir Knight, has taken the thirty-second degree, Scottish Rite, and is a member of the Mystic Shrine. In both these fraternal orders he is held as an honorary member, and in the lodges to which he belongs is exempted from dues, because of his liberal benefactions in freeing them from indebtedness incurred in the building of their halls. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has been honored as a delegate from Iowa to three Republican national conventions, and as many more national conventions of the Republican League.

The General was married December 24, 1855, to Mary Jane Lord, of Ohio, a native of New Brunswick, Canada. She died at Centerville, Iowa, June 22, 1883. Mrs. Drake was a woman of superior intelligence and a leader in society and the church. Her character for sincerity was especially marked, as were also her kindness and liberality, and she was loved and admired by her associates. She was the mother of seven children, six of whom are now living, George Hamilton having died in 1870, at the age of twenty-two months. The surviving members of the family are Frank Elsworth, John Adams, Amelia, Jennie, Eva and Mary. Frank, who resides in Centerville, is president of the Centerville Block Coal Company, and is extensively engaged in dealing in bituminous coal. He was married to Flora Bissett, at Momence, Illinois, in 1883, and has one son, named Francis. John, a resident of Chicago, is the secretary and treasurer of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad Company, and was married on the 26th of January, 1893, to Dula Heisel Rae, the adopted daughter of Colonel Robert Rae, of Chicago. Amelia is the wife of T. P. Shonts, of Chicago, general manager of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad. They were married in 1881 and have two daughters,—Marguerite and Mary Theodora. Jennie is the wife of Dr. J. L. Sawyers, an eminent physician and surgeon of Centerville. They were married in 1883, and have two daughters and one son, namely: Mary, Hygiene and Francis Lazelle. Eva is the wife of Henry Goss, a merchant of Centerville, and they have one son,—Joseph Marion. Mary, the youngest child, is the wife of George W. Sturdivant, a banker at Moravia, Iowa.

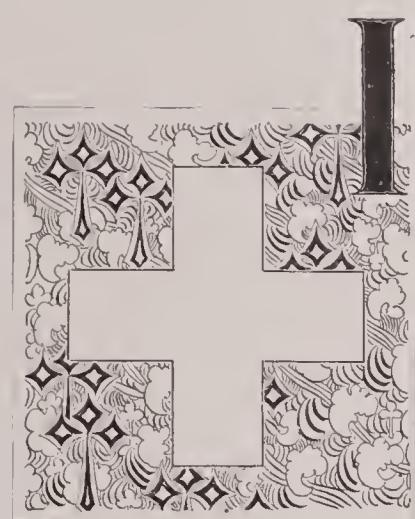




10. & Servt.

## WILLIAM L. SCOTT,

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA.



**I**T is an important public duty to honor and perpetuate as far as is possible the memory of an eminent citizen,—one who by his blameless and honorable life and distinguished services reflected credit not only upon his city and state, but also upon the whole country. Through such memorials as this at hand the individual and the character of his services are kept in remembrance and the importance of those services acknowledged. His example, in whatever field his work may have been done, thus stands as an object lesson to those who come after him, and though dead he still speaks. Long after all recollection of his personality shall have faded from the minds of men, the less perishable record may tell the story of his life and commend his example for imitation. Under our system, whose very existence depends upon the virtue of the people themselves, who are not only the source of all political power, but upon whom rests the very existence of our free institutions, those who have become distinguished in the public service, whether in statesmanship or in arms or in whatever other sphere of usefulness, should not fail of recognition; and this is not only in justice to the people, who should not seem unmindful of great sacrifices or great efforts in their behalf or of notable exhibitions of public spirit, but also in the interests of our national institutions. In honoring those who have deserved well of the republic the people do credit to themselves and also thus supply a powerful stimulus to honorable ambition to incite to like service or achievement for the public good. True men are the crown jewels of the republic. The very names of the distinguished dead are a continual inspiration and an abiding lesson.

The busy and eventful life of Hon. William L. Scott was spent in Erie. Here were his home and his family, and here his affections were centered. To him it was "dear Erie," as feelingly expressed in one of that series of masterly and statesmanlike addresses made in his congressional campaign of 1886. He sought to make it a beautiful Erie, and in their wide scope his efforts toward its embellishment—worthy of a Baron Haussmann or a Christopher Wren—embodied not only the city, with its blocks and mansions, its churches, parks and avenues, but the construction, development and adornment of Massassauga Point, and the improvement of the cluster of highly cultivated farms which, with their elegant surroundings, ample approaches and unexcelled roads, surprise and delight those who visit or spend their summers on the shores of Presque Isle bay. Mr. Scott's life was one of broad activity. It was characterized by methodical and systematic planning, intense thought, alert action and energetic living. These enabled him to accomplish those vast results which, in a review of his life, prove so amazing when an attempt is made to comprehend the extent of his plans, the directness of his action and his dazzling success in the execution of that which only genius could have originated and inflexible will performed.

William L. Scott was of ancient lineage and of Scotch-Welsh descent. His great-grandfather, Rev. James Scott, of the Church of England, graduated at Aberdeen University, and was ordained and licensed to preach in Virginia by the bishop of London, in 1735. Gustavus Scott, the grandfather of the immediate subject of this review, was educated at Aberdeen, and thereafter entered upon the technical work of preparing himself for the practice of law, completing his professional studies, in London, in 1771. Returning to America, he resided in Annapolis or Baltimore. He was

a member of the continental congress, and held many other offices of distinction in Maryland. The family name is indissolubly associated with the illustrious Virginians whose patriotic deeds in Revolutionary days are recorded on the brightest and most honored pages of American history. In recognition of this sentiment President Washington appointed, in 1794, Gustavus Scott a member of the first board of commissioners to whom was assigned the laying out of the city of Washington. Accepting this trust, Mr. Scott built, and occupied until his death, the noted Kalorama residence at the site of the future federal capital.

Major Robert L. Scott, son of Gustavus, was a graduate of West Point, and served with distinction in the war of 1812. He was the father of William L. Scott, and died when the latter was quite young, leaving six children. Of these William L. Scott achieved a commanding position in public affairs; Robert Wainright Scott (deceased) entered the navy, served through the late war and was promoted to be a commander; and Miss Ann Eliza Scott, a resident of Erie, is now sole survivor of the family.

Hon. William L. Scott was born in Washington, on the 2d of July, 1828. He received a common-school education, and about the year 1840 was appointed a page in congress. While serving as such he attracted the notice of General Reed, representative of the Erie district in the twenty-eighth congress, by whom, in 1844, at the age of sixteen years, he was brought to Erie. General Reed was then in the zenith of his commercial career, with his fleet of steamers and other vessels on the lakes, and with numerous clerks, agents and warehouses. In one of these warehouses the young southerner was placed, to receive those first lessons in commerce and modes of transportation which, then in their infancy, were yet to be so vastly developed by the master mind of General Reed's youthful protégé. The celebrated Howell Cobb, afterward secretary of the treasury, under President Buchanan, served in the same congress with General Reed from 1843 to 1845. At this time it was a question whether the young page would go with Mr. Cobb to his southern home, to imbibe his fiery ideas of southern rights, the assertion of which drove him from President Buchanan's cabinet into the rebel army; or to the care, the tuition and the patronage of General Reed, the noted capitalist, steamboat-owner and master mind of lake commerce. A destiny was involved. Fate decided, and William L. Scott came to Erie. It was the pivotal point in the orphan's career. His progressive steps were rapid. In this sketch but the merest mention can be given of them. In 1850 he made his first venture in the coal and shipping business, associated with the late Hon. Morrow B. Lowry. This firm continued in business but one year. In 1851 Mr. Scott engaged in the coal business with John Hearn, this firm continuing operations until the death of the latter, when it was succeeded by W. L. Scott & Company. This company eventually did the largest business of its kind in the world. It controlled mines in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Mr. Scott owned upward of seventy thousand acres of coal land, and gave employment to twelve thousand people. He was the controlling owner of the stock of the Youghiogheny River Coal Company, of Pennsylvania; the Spring Valley Coal Company, of Illinois; and the Union Coal Company, of Pennsylvania. If his coal investments were large, his railroad interests were on an equally grand scale.

In 1861 Mr. Scott built that portion of the Erie & Pittsburg Railroad which extends from Girard to New Castle, and in 1863-4 constructed the completing link, from New Castle to the Fort Wayne Railroad, becoming a large stockholder in the same. He was president of the Erie & Pittsburg Railroad until the time of his death, and during the war located and constructed the Pittsburg docks, at the mouth of Cascade Run, in Erie. In 1862 he and his brother-in-law, John F. Tracy, extended the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad from Grinnell, Iowa, to the Missouri river, this being the first railroad built to that waterway. Prior to his death he had become president and director of twenty-two thousand miles of railroad,—representing more miles of track than any other one man has been the central figure in operating. He was one of the pioneers of rapid transit in New York city, and, with John F. Tracy, was interested in building the first elevated road in that city. Mr. Scott was, in 1884, one of the builders of the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk Railroad, which was the first railroad on the peninsula of Virginia. He aided in developing the Canada Southern and Canadian Pacific Railroads. At the time of his demise he was the oldest director of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad; director and member of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company; and a director in each the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis, the New Castle & Beaver Valley and the Michigan Central Railroads, and the Albemarle & Chesapeake Canal Company. He was a manufacturer of iron in the Chenango valley and in Missouri. He was the controlling stockholder of the Northwestern Fuel Company, of St. Paul, and had interests in the Missouri Iron & Coal Company, of Missouri; the Sligo Furnace Company, of the same state; and the What Cheer Coal Company, of Iowa.

The memorials of Mr. Scott's presence in Erie are abiding. He built the Scott Block, on the

northwest corner of State and Tenth streets, in 1872. His elegant home residence was ample and luxurious. The vast and imposing mansion erected for a residence for his daughter, on Sixth street, in whose designing he was long in consultation with architects, will continue as an evidence of his appreciation of grandeur in architecture and his munificence in execution. This beautiful residence, the home of Mrs. Strong, is excellently depicted in the accompanying illustration. Mr. Scott owned two thousand acres of land in Erie county; the utilization of this land for stock farms, and the creation of beautiful Massassauga Point, with its idyllic approaches and surroundings, involved the exercise of artistic judgment and the expenditure of vast sums. The result has been the addition of a permanent attraction to Erie and the wider use of the bay as a pleasure resort, whose charms were before but imperfectly realized.

The civil and political career of our honored subject was remarkable,—especially so when the great influence he exerted upon the councils of his party and the moulding of its policy are considered,—for aside from his service as mayor of Erie he had never held a political office until his election to congress, in 1884, a position he held for four years. He had become one of the trusted leaders of the Democratic party, and his influence in its national conventions was most potential. He was mayor of Erie in 1866 and again in 1871, serving two full terms. He was nominated for congress in 1866 and in 1876, but took no part in the campaigns. He was a delegate to the national Democratic conventions of 1868, 1876, 1880 and 1888, and was representative of Pennsylvania on the Democratic national committee from 1876 to 1884, in which latter year he was elected to congress from the Erie district. In congress Mr. Scott's surroundings were most congenial and agreeable; they could scarcely have been more so. It was his lot to have the fullest confidence and the personal friendship of the president and the speaker of the house during his successive terms of service, with very much of influence in shaping the course of the administration. In this respect it is doubtful whether any member of the cabinet had more fully the confidence of the president. He introduced and put, upon their passage, the Chinese exclusion bill and the oleomargarine bill, both of which were enacted. His position in the modification of the tariff was in advance of that of many of the Pennsylvania Democrats,—a position to which many of the party came. He took a leading part in the preparation of the Mills bill, in the fiftieth congress (1888), and after its passage by the house and its amendment by the senate he prepared for a leading publication a masterly article calling in question and assailing the constitutional right of the senate to modify a bill for raising revenue, which by the constitution was required to originate in the house. Mr. Scott's speech in congress upon the silver question was most elaborate and exhaustive, indicating remarkable study and research and involving a mass of facts and an array of figures and tabulated statistics not often assembled together. Later events have shown its predictions to be prophecy. While his views and wishes in regard to the revenue, owing to the adverse action of the Republican senate, were not then enacted into laws, yet the large number of appointments made upon his recommendation evinced his sagacity in selection and his consideration for friends, which was one of his most pleasing characteristics.

Mr. Scott's domestic relations were of the happiest nature. Soon after his arrival in Erie he made the acquaintance of Miss Mary M. Tracy, daughter of John A. Tracy, one of the most substantial and public-spirited citizens of Erie, and granddaughter of the noted Daniel Dobbins, whose fame as an early lake navigator and as one of the commanders of Perry's renowned fleet has connected his name with history. With tastes so congenial and purposes so much in harmony, their marriage, on September 19, 1853, was a most happy union. It was more than this, for the large experience of John A. Tracy in railroad construction and the seeming predilection of his son, John F. Tracy, destined to so much of distinction in the extension of Chicago's great system of railroads,



RESIDENCE OF MRS. C. H. STRONG, ERIE.

doubtless tended to materially encourage and develop the early efforts of Mr. Scott in the initiation and prosecution of his railroad career, which eventually assumed so large proportions. Mr. and Mrs. Scott became the parents of two children,—Mary Tracy, wife of Richard H. Townsend, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Annie Wainright, the wife of C. H. Strong, of Erie.

Mr. Scott's personal appearance was striking, and in social intercourse his manners were suave and winning. His movements were quick, his mind was active and his examination of any subject in hand most exhaustive. He had a large and valuable library, in which his investigations of any matter under consideration were studiously concentrated. As a result, his after-treatment of his subject was masterful. It was his habit to make most thorough investigation of a matter in hand, and it was this comprehensive preparation that made his influence in conference or in public meetings so great. During the war he equipped and fitted out at his own expense Captain Mueller's battery of artillery, which he sent to the front. Many residents of Erie, in widely separated walks of life, were gladdened by the flow of charity emanating from himself or his household. This was further manifested in substantial aid to worthy religious and charitable organizations. These benefactions it would be impracticable to specify at length, as his giving was as unostentatious as it was generous.

Mr. Scott, never physically strong, was unequal to the great strain involved in conducting so much business. He sank under his arduous labors in the fiftieth congress. Repeated attacks or shocks continued to remind him of his waning strength. Finally, under most eminent medical advice, he sought rest and recuperation in the pure air and sea breezes of Newport. But his heeding was too late,—he was never to see Erie again. On the 19th of September, 1891 (which was the anniversary of his marriage), while yet at the seaside, he sank into his final sleep. His death was a startling and sad event for Erie. His funeral was most notable. Distinguished men gathered from various parts of the country,—from Chicago to New York,—men of civic, of political and of railroad celebrity. These, with all classes of the community, gathered at the shadowed home. The president of the United States,—then in the interim of his exalted service,—the governor of Pennsylvania, railroad magnates and Erie's citizens stood around the bier of the honored dead, to bid a last farewell to him who lay in the calm repose of eternal sleep.

On the beautiful afternoon of the Thursday following his death, a typical September day, amid crowded streets and masses of sympathetic friends and townsmen, reaching from his home to the cemetery, the remains of Erie's most honored and distinguished citizen were borne to their last resting place, the president and governor heading the pall-bearers. The casket was placed in the splendid mausoleum designed for the resting place of Mr. Scott and his family, and thus was rendered the closing chapter in a life of signal honor and usefulness, one true in every relationship and one consecrated upon the plane of lofty ideals.





W.J. Campbell

## WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.



WILLIAM JAMES CAMPBELL was a native of Philadelphia, and the old-time spirit of the "City of Brotherly Love" seemed to have been imparted to him. He was born December 12, 1850, and was a son of John and Mary Campbell, sturdy, religious Scotch-Irish people. His parents came to the west during his infancy and took up their abode in Bloom township, Cook county, where they still make their home. The boy worked on his father's farm, becoming familiar with the labors of the fields, and in his youth he was also afforded good school privileges, of which he took advantage, acquiring thus a sure foundation of broad general knowledge on which to rear the superstructure of his professional course. He attended the common and high schools of Bloom township, pursued his studies in the Lake Forest Academy and afterward entered the University of Pennsylvania. He left that institution, however, before receiving his degree and, returning to Chicago, became a student in the Union College of Law, where he was graduated on the completion of the prescribed course. From that time until his death he was a prominent figure in the legal circles of the city, occupying a foremost place in the ranks of the profession which has embraced some of the brightest minds of the nation. For some time both before and after his graduation he was in the law office of William C. Goudy, then one of the leading attorneys of the city, largely interested in corporation work. With that gentleman Mr. Campbell studied two years, finding this connection a school in which his ideas were materially broadened and enlarged. In 1879 he formed a law partnership with Jacob R. Custer, which lasted until his death. The firm of Campbell & Custer soon acquired a large practice. Mr. Campbell confined himself to the duties of counsel, and his time was always fully taken up with the important and involved affairs of a number of the largest business houses and corporations of Chicago. He became as well known in New York as he was in Chicago, and there had business connections which yielded the firm of Campbell & Custer a handsome income.

Soon after he entered upon the practice of law Mr. Campbell became deeply interested in politics and in the issues which materially affected the welfare of the nation. He was a potent factor in the politics of Illinois from 1878 and was always a Republican, which was the political faith of his family. He was young in years when he first became deeply interested in the living issues in American history, and he never regarded lightly those duties of citizenship which rest upon the voter. From 1878 until 1886 he represented the country district of Cook county in the Illinois senate, of which body he was elected president at three consecutive sessions. In 1891 he became a member of the national Republican committee, representing Illinois and succeeding Colonel George R. Davis, who had resigned, and in 1892 he was re-elected and shortly afterward was made a member of the executive committee of that body. That he occupied a most honorable position in the political world, as well as the legal, is shown by the fact that in June, 1892, he was unanimously chosen chairman of the national executive committee during the presidential campaign of that year, but he declined the honor, owing to pressing business duties, notwithstanding that he was urgently requested to accept the position by many of the most prominent statesmen and politicians throughout the country. He made many warm friends in the political world, for his actions and methods were unequivocal, ever open and above board, and he commanded the confidence and respect of all. He was for many

years intimately associated in political work with John R. Tanner, the present governor of Illinois (1897). They made their entrance into state politics at the same time, becoming acquainted in Springfield when serving in the senate, and from that time were inseparable friends. As a manager Mr. Campbell was seldom equaled. He took a broad and comprehensive view of the political situation, saw where work was most needed, and brought his forces to bear in strengthening the weakest points. It was this diplomatic power which enabled him to win successes for his party at various local elections, and he was a most untiring worker in the interests of Republicanism, for he believed the safety of the nation lay in the adoption of its principles.

In 1876 Mr. Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca McEldowney, of Bloom, Cook county, and their home life was most happy. They became parents of five children, Mary, William James, Herbert John, Allan Walter and Edward Custer. For the first ten years of his married life Mr. Campbell lived at Blue Island, and in 1887 he moved to the village of Riverside, Illinois, one of Chicago's most beautiful suburban towns, where he established a lovely home. The welfare and happiness of his wife and children were ever his first consideration.

From the time of his earliest connection with Riverside Mr. Campbell was deeply interested in all that pertained to its welfare. For seven years he was president of the board of village trustees,



RESIDENCE OF MRS. WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL, RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS.

and during all that time he watched with the keenest interest and pleasure every detail of the municipal work. He projected many village improvements and it is largely due to his watchful care and tireless exertion that Riverside is to-day one of the most beautiful suburban villages in the United States. He was a trustee of the Riverside Presbyterian church. He was a Christian man, and what more can be said? He gave most liberally to the church, but his Christianity did not end there. It was of that practical kind which recognized the brotherhood of mankind and is ever ready to extend on life's journey the hand of helpfulness and encouragement to the fellow traveler less fortunate than himself. His benevolence was unbounded. "Many a sad heart has been made glad by the hoped for, but unexpected, Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner, and yet not knowing whom to thank for the same, for Mr. Campbell was a man who did not let his left hand know what his right was doing." All classes bear testimony to his genial and generous nature and it would be difficult to estimate the extent of his charities and of the kindnesses which he showed to those around him. He took a very active interest in the Armour Institute of Technology, perhaps more so than any other man save the founder of the institution. Referring to this, Dr. Gunsaulus said: "He supported four or five young men in the institute, and his two sons attended there. He was a benevolent man and he believed in a Christian as well as a benevolent education. He was ever ready with his time and

money to aid young men; he believed in the education of the hands, the brain and the heart,—the democracy that lifts instead of pulls down; and he gave himself thoroughly to his genuine love for poor young men."

Mr. Campbell was a valued member of various social organizations, including the Union League Club, the Chicago Club, the Chicago Athletic Association, and the Lawyers' Club of New York, and was a trustee of Armour Institute of Technology and of Armour Mission. He died after a very brief illness, from an attack of pneumonia, on the 4th of March, 1896, and the sympathy of the many thousands who knew him went out to his family. He had made countless friends, and had the happy faculty of holding them closer to his heart as the years rolled by. For him friendship was inviolable and home sacred, and family devotion not simply a duty, but the best inspiration and happiness of life. He was generous and chivalrous, strong in his attachments, and commanded the confidence and affection of all with whom he had relations of any nature. After his death resolutions of sympathy and respect were passed by the Illinois Republican state convention, the national Republican committee, by numerous clubs and societies, by the board of trustees of Riverside and by the directors of the Armour Institute; and from hundreds of friends came letters of condolence.

Thus the "best beloved son of Riverside," as he was called, passed away, and the life of William J. Campbell was over. He was only forty-five years of age at the time of his death, but he had accomplished a work which would seem a fitting reward for those alone who have passed the Psalmist's three-score years and ten. Making the most of his opportunities, he achieved a distinction in professional circles of which anyone might be proud, and as the result of his ability gained a comfortable fortune. His name became known throughout the country as a political leader, but only those who saw the daily manifestation of his kindly spirit, his charity, his sympathy and his love knew the real man,—the man whose name will through years to come live in the memory and hearts of all who knew him.



LIBRARY IN RESIDENCE OF MRS. WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL.

## JACOB R. CUSTER,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.



AMONG the able and influential members of the bar of the great western metropolis Jacob Rambo Custer has won unmistakable prestige, being known as a man of scholarly attainments, exact and comprehensive knowledge of the law and of precedents, and commanding success as the result of the legitimate application of the natural and acquired forces which are his. His lineage is German in the paternal line and Swedish on the maternal side. The two families of Custer and Rambo have been long and conspicuously identified with the annals of local history in Pennsylvania, having been represented among the early settlers of that state. It is a noteworthy fact that some of the Custers in Pennsylvania to-day own and occupy land which was granted to their ancestors by William Penn, and of which no conveyance has been made by deed to this day. Members of both families removed to Ohio and there established branches from which came the late General George A. Custer and others of the name and the numerous Rambos who have been so prominent in the affairs of the Buckeye state. Peter Custer, the paternal great-grandfather of the subject of this review, was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Jacob R. Custer was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, on the 27th of May, 1845, being the son of David Y. and Esther (Rambo) Custer, both of whom were born in Montgomery county, in the Keystone state,—the former on the 26th and the latter on the 29th of January, 1815. The father, who was a farmer and miller by occupation, lived to attain the age of four-score years, his death occurring in March, 1895, at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, where his venerable widow still maintains her home. They became the parents of two sons and one daughter, of whom the immediate subject of this sketch is the sole survivor.

The boyhood days of Jacob R. Custer were passed in his native county, where he secured his preliminary educational discipline in the public schools, after which he became a student in Washington Hall, an historical educational institution located at Trappe, Pennsylvania, and at that time conducted by his uncle, Dr. Abel Rambo, a well known educator of those days. Here, under most effective tutorage, Mr. Custer prepared himself for college, remaining from 1861 until the fall of 1864, within which time he had put his acquirements to practical test by teaching school during winter months, pursuing his studies at the hall in the summer. For several months he was a member of the Pennsylvania militia, at the time of the invasion of Pennsylvania and the battle of Antietam, in 1863. In the fall of 1864 he entered Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg, becoming a member of the sophomore class and completing the prescribed course in 1867, at which time he graduated with third honors.

It is but natural to infer that by this time a young man of so distinctive energy and ambition had formulated and essentially matured plans for his future career. He had determined to prepare himself for the legal profession, and with this end in view he began his technical study, in the fall of 1867, as a student in the office of William F. Johnson, an able lawyer of Philadelphia, where he remained one year, after which he attended the Albany Law School, at Albany, New York, for a year, graduating in May, 1869, and being forthwith admitted to practice in the courts of New York.

In the fall of the same year Mr. Custer came to Chicago, where he has ever since continued



EDWARD HENRY TAYLOR JR. SCULPTOR

J.H. Cresson



in active practice and where he has won professional precedence by reason of his ability and his devotion to his work, while his personal characteristics and attributes have been such as to gain to him uniform confidence and respect. It is needless to say that his success has not been a matter of chance, for the obstacles which were imposed in his professional pathway were as numerous and as menacing as those which ever confront the young aspirant for professional honors in a populous community where he is not only unknown but is compelled to come into active competition with those older in years and long established in practice. Mr. Custer had determination, self-reliance and abundant reinforcement in technical knowledge of the law, and, thus fortified, he entered upon an individual practice, seeking a professional alliance with no one, though occupying an office with Colonel A. N. Waterman, now one of the judges of the appellate court. He continued to practice alone until June, 1879, when he became associated with the late William J. Campbell, who had occupied the same office with him for about a year prior to the formation of the partnership. This association continued until the death of Mr. Campbell, on the 4th of March, 1896. The firm had attained a high position at the bar and had been concerned in much important litigation. The loss of his professional confrère deprived Mr. Custer not alone of an able coadjutor but of a friend whose death could not but prove a sore bereavement. On the 1st of the following July Mr. Custer formed the present partnership with Lester O. Goddard and Joseph A. Griffin, under the firm name of Custer, Goddard & Griffin. Mr. Goddard had theretofore been connected with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, while Mr. Griffin had for a number of years been associated with the firm of Campbell & Custer.

In 1880 Mr. Custer was appointed master in chancery of the superior court of Cook county, serving in this capacity, and with signal efficiency, until 1892, when he resigned. From 1882 to 1890 he served as the attorney for the sheriff of Cook county, during the terms of Sheriffs Hanchett and Matson. He is known as a strong trial lawyer and able advocate, and his individual and associate clientage has been drawn from the larger and representative corporations and highest class of business men. He has given his attention entirely to practice in the civil courts. Among the most notable cases in which he has been retained we may consistently make specific reference to the following: The suits of Armour, Swift and Morris versus the Union Stock Yards & Transit Company, in the circuit court, to restrain the defendant from interfering with the delivery of stock to the plaintiffs at their yards and over the tracks of the defendant company; also the suits of the smaller packers against Armour, Swift and Morris and the Union Stock Yards & Transit Company and the Chicago Junction Railways and Union Stock Yards Company of New Jersey, for the purpose of enjoining the carrying out of an agreement under which the New Jersey company was to pay Armour, Swift and Morris, upon certain conditions, three million dollars of its income bonds. Some of the most eminent counsel of Chicago, New York and Boston were engaged in this litigation, which was finally compromised. Mr. Custer was also connected with the numerous suits brought by Attorney-General Moloney against the Chicago gas companies for the purpose of dissolving an alleged trust; also with a number of the suits against the gas companies, within the same period, brought in the state and federal courts, for the purpose of preventing consolidation, for the appointment of receivers, etc. He also appeared in the suits brought before the railroad and warehouse commissioners for the purpose of procuring the revocation of the licenses of the public warehousemen of class A, in Chicago, for an alleged violation of the warehouse laws. He was also retained in the suits brought by the attorney-general to enjoin the public warehousemen of class A from storing their own grain in their own warehouses and mixing it with the grain of others. All of this litigation is now (February, 1897) pending in the supreme court of the state, and in all of it Mr. Custer has appeared for the defendants.

As a lawyer Mr. Custer has a great natural aptitude for the work of his profession, being industrious, conscientious, earnest and persistent in the advocacy of his client's cause, while his record gives evidence of his wide research and learning and his broad powers of reasoning in the application of the principles of the law to the cases which come before the courts for adjudication. In politics Mr. Custer is a Republican. For the first decade of his residence in Chicago he was actively concerned in political matters, though not a seeker of official preferment, but since that time has given his entire time to his profession. Aside from his college fraternity, the Phi Kappa Psi, he is identified with no secret order. He is a member of the Union League and Calumet Clubs.

On the 1st of December, 1879, Mr. Custer was married to Miss Ella A. White, daughter of Charles B. White, of Chicago, who was for many years a member of the firm of White, Swan & Company, extensive lumber dealers. Mrs. Custer is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Custer became the parents of two children,—a son, who died in infancy, and a daughter, Esther R., who is now (1897) fourteen years of age. The attractive family home, which is a center of refined hospitality, is located at 3928 Grand boulevard.

## JEPTHA H. WADE,

CLEVELAND, OHIO.



ISING above the heads of the mass there has always been a series of individuals, distinguished beyond others, who, by reason of their pronounced ability and forceful individuality, have always commanded the homage of their fellow men, and who have revealed to the world those two resplendent virtues of a lordly race,—perseverance in purpose and a directing spirit which never falters. Throughout all the great west have been found men who have marked with deeds the vanishing traces of swift-rolling time, and whose names are held in lasting honor by those who have cognizance of their lives and their accomplishment. A man of indefatigable enterprise, of great inventive talent and marked fertility of resource, the subject of this memoir carved his name deeply upon the records, not alone of the city of Cleveland and the state of Ohio, but of the nation. True, his were "massive deeds and great," in one sense, and yet his entire accomplishment but represented the result of the fit

utilization of the innate talent which was his, and of the directing of his efforts along those lines where mature judgment and rare discrimination lead the way. Not alone through his princely benefaction to the city of Cleveland, nor yet through the high position which he attained in connection with the great material industries of the nation, will perpetual honor be accorded him in the beautiful Forest City where he so long maintained his home, but as a type of noble manhood and spotless integrity in all the affairs and relations of life will a tribute of reverence be his through all the days yet to be.

Jeptha H. Wade was born in Seneca county, New York, on the 11th of August, 1811, being the son of Jeptha Wade, who was a surveyor and civil engineer by profession and a man of signal ability. He died at an untimely age, leaving his son, Jeptha H., who was still a mere boy, without a father's care and guidance. The subject of this memoir passed an uneventful youth, securing such educational discipline as the time and place afforded, and thereafter turning his attention to the practical duties of life by learning the carpenter's trade, of which he became a thorough master. He showed a great natural talent for mechanics, and in his early life he gained quite an extended local reputation for his skillful work in the manufacturing of clocks and musical instruments, upon the latter of which he performed with marked taste and technical proficiency. He was an excellent shot, and as commander of the militia at Romulus, New York, he was the most expert marksman of the four hundred men in the ranks. At the time of his attaining a legal majority he became the owner of a large sash, door and blind factory in Seneca Falls, New York, but after an experience of three years in this line of enterprise he concluded that his talents did not adapt him for the conduct of operations in the commercial field, and having a distinctive taste for all branches of art, he determined to study portrait painting. Accordingly he began studying under the direction of the eminent artist, Randall Palmer, making rapid progress and eventually attaining an enviable reputation throughout Louisiana, New York and Michigan.



J. A. Brade



Mr. Wade was but slightly more than thirty years of age when he became interested in the discoveries of Daguerre, and assisted only by the printed instructions he studied out the methods of this line of portraiture and had the distinction of having taken the first daguerreotype ever made west of New York. His health had become impaired by reason of his sedentary occupation, and he began looking about for some field of endeavor where he might be more in the open air. The mystery of a message flashed from Washington to Baltimore was just then creating great excitement in both scientific and commercial circles. Mr. Wade was then in New Orleans, but returned to Detroit, Michigan, where he began a thorough investigation of the principles of the invention and the practical application of the same. He was thus one of the first to identify himself with telegraphy, in connection with which he ultimately became most conspicuous and realized a fortune. After a brief interval he began the construction of a telegraph line along the Michigan Central Railroad, opening and equipping an office at Jackson, that state, and acting as operator and manager. After a time he entered the field as a builder of telegraph lines, meeting with many discouragements, through the imperfections of the inventions. He himself invented an insulator which overcame many difficulties. This device is still in use and bears his name. He was the first to enclose a submarine cable in iron armor, the initial experiment with the same being made across the Mississippi river, at St. Louis. To the success of this undertaking is due the entire and magnificent cable system of the world.

When the Western Union Telegraph Company was formed, by the consolidation of many small lines, Mr. Wade was made general manager, and there can be no doubt that to him more than to any other one man is due the honor of having brought about the construction of the first transcontinental railroad. It was his foresight and judgment that conceived and carried into operation the Pacific telegraph, from St. Louis to San Francisco, bringing the hitherto isolated gold-seekers into communication with the eastern world and thus attracting to the far west the attention of capitalists and enterprising business men. The determining of the course of the line and the responsibility of its construction were entrusted to Mr. Wade, and he labored with indefatigable energy and zeal until the great work was completed. Under his direct supervision the construction train was equipped, and each man was armed with rifle and revolvers for protection against the hostile Indians, who were sure to menace the party on many an occasion. In an incredibly short time the gigantic scheme was a reality, and the El Dorado was reached. There Mr. Wade found confusion among the local companies, but, with that rare tact and discrimination so characteristic of the man, he succeeded in unifying the several interests, thus securing complete communication with the east. It was through his suggestion that the various railroad companies constructed telegraph lines for their exclusive use.

Mr. Wade was made the first president of the Pacific Telegraph Company, and upon its consolidation with the Western Union became president of the entire combination. He filled this important and exacting office with distinguished ability until a serious illness, in 1867, admonished him that he was overtaxing his physical and mental faculties and powers, and though he was constrained to retire for an interval from active business pursuits, his was not the fiber that readily relaxes. He had become a resident of Cleveland about the year 1855, and had from the start maintained a most lively interest in all that conserved the progress and material prosperity of his adopted city, lending aid and encouragement to both public improvements and private enterprise. As a director in many of the largest manufacturing companies, banks, railroads and public institutions, his wide experience and sound judgment were highly valued. Upon the organization of the Lake View Cemetery Association he gave distinctive evidence of his liberality and of the refined and cul-



VIEW OF LAKE IN WADE PARK.

tivated tastes which had always marked his character, for this ideal spot, Lake View Cemetery, where nature and art unite to make beautiful the city of the dead, was made what it is largely through his earnest and devoted labors and artistic judgment.

One of the most beautiful of all the magnificent public parks which have given the Forest City so great a prestige and attractiveness is that which bears his name, the same having been kept open to the public at his own expense for many years prior to 1882, when with magnificent generosity he deeded this great park to the city. What more fitting monument and more permanent memorial could be granted to a noble and public-spirited citizen? What gift could be more thoroughly appreciated by the general populace of any city?

Mr. Wade's business operations ramified in many directions, and in this connection may be consistently mentioned certain of the more important industrial and financial enterprises in which he was concerned. He was a director in each the Second National Bank of Cleveland, the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company, the Cleveland Iron Mining Company and the Union Steel Screw Company; was president of the American Sheet & Boiler Plate Company and of the Chicago & Atchison Bridge Company. He was also a director of several railroad companies, being president of the Kalamazoo, Allegan & Grand Rapids and the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan Railway Companies and of the Valley Railway Company, whose line traverses the coal fields of Ohio.

He was appointed a commissioner of the city sinking fund, was park commissioner and a director of the workhouse and house of refuge. He was one of the trustees of the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum, and erected at his own expense a handsome fireproof building that will accommodate one hundred and fifty children. He was ever ready to lend a helping hand to any good work, being of deeply sympathetic and charitable nature and animated by the broadest spirit of humanitarianism. No word of eulogy can add to the luster of his name. His ability, his talents, his genius were all dedicated to the advancement of humanity, and to him humanity owes a deep debt of gratitude.

As a young man Jeptha H. Wade married Miss Rebecca Louisa Facer, and to them were born two children, namely: Francis Wade, who died in infancy; and Randall Palmer Wade, born August 26, 1835. Rebecca Louisa Wade died and Mr. Wade consummated a second marriage, being united to Sue M. Fleming, of whom no children were born. She died in 1889 and Mr. Wade died August 8, 1890, of peritonitis.

Mr. Wade in early life was a stanch Democrat, at one time being a candidate for congress from Cleveland, but was defeated. During the latter part of his life, believing firmly in protection, he usually voted the Republican ticket. He was very liberal in his religious views, and, while a member of no religious body, occasionally attended the Unitarian church.

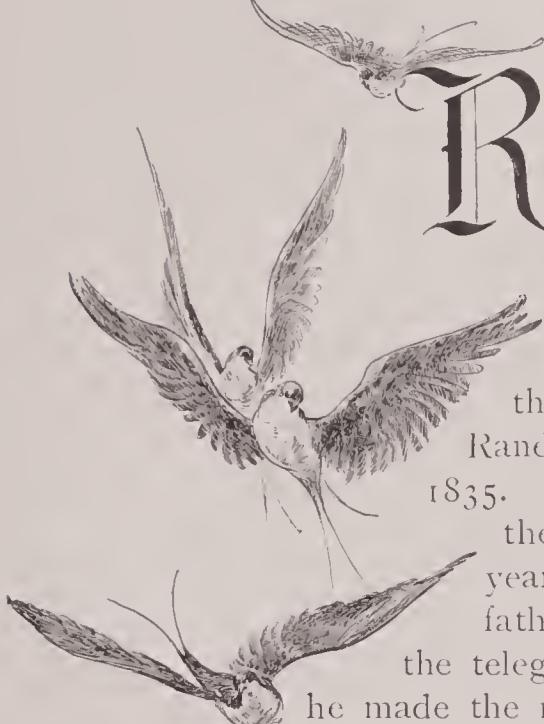




R.P. Wade

## RANDALL P. WADE,

CLEVELAND, OHIO.



RANDALL PALMER WADE was one of the most accomplished and cultured men who ever graced commercial circles in the city of Cleveland. Possessed of rare judgment and discrimination, thoroughly public-spirited and progressive, and one whose interest was always of vital nature, he was ever found among the leaders of any movement with which he became associated.

The only son of Jeptha H. and Rebecca Louisa (Facer) Wade, the former of whom figures as the subject of the memoir just preceding, Randall P. was born at Seneca Falls, New York, on the 26th of August, 1835. In early childhood he accompanied his parents on their removal from their eastern home to Adrian, Michigan, and when he was a lad of eleven years he became associated with that line of enterprise in which his honored father gained such prestige and won so magnificent a success. He entered the telegraphic service, in the capacity of errand boy, and while thus employed he made the most of his opportunities. Before he was seventeen years of age he had learned to read the telegraphic instrument by sound,—an accomplishment at that time unprecedented in the west. In the same line of service he eventually filled the position of chief operator in the offices at Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

Realizing the practical value of thorough mental training and discipline, he withdrew finally from the sphere of active business operations, and for four years devoted his attention to the study of law. He also became a student in the Kentucky Military Institute, near Frankfort, graduating at the age of twenty-one, with the highest honors. He also enjoyed the distinction of having been the most expert swordsman of the entire body of students.

In the year 1856 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wade and Miss Anna R. McGaw, of Columbus, Ohio, and during the next three years he held an official position in one of the most important banking houses in the city of Cleveland. In the meantime, for the purpose of gaining wider information and culture, but with no intention of practicing the profession, he continued the study of law, devoting considerable time to this, under the effective direction of Judge Hayden, one of the most eminent legal practitioners of the Cleveland bar. Finally, upon examination, Mr. Wade received a certificate entitling him to practice in both the state and federal courts.

At the outbreak of the late war of the Rebellion Mr. Wade's ability as a telegraphist and as a manager of detail work brought about the tendering to him of the position as chief clerk of the United States military-telegraph department, with headquarters at the national capital. He accepted the place, and was one of the four men who alone knew the secret cipher for transmitting messages to the front. He was soon afterward commissioned quartermaster, with the rank of captain, which office placed him second in command in the military-telegraph department, with headquarters at Cleveland. To him was also assigned the duty of purchasing all the telegraphic materials with which to supply all the military districts, and he personally attended to the distribution of the same. The red tape and technicalities constantly required in this department of the government service became so irksome that Mr. Wade resigned his office at the end of two years.

The most extensive retail jewelry business in the city of Cleveland was established by Mr.

Wade in 1867 and was conducted by him for several years, after which he disposed of his interests in that line and devoted his attention to the management of the family estate, which then demanded the constant care of both his father and himself. He was thoroughly enterprising and public-spirited, was careful and conservative in his methods, but was ever ready to assist and advance any project of legitimate order, either of public character or of private enterprise, through which general prosperity is so largely promoted in every community. He was conspicuously concerned in many important commercial enterprises, among the most prominent of which may be mentioned the following: He was secretary of the Cleveland & Cincinnati Telegraph Company; secretary, treasurer and director of the Cuyahoga Mining Company; secretary, treasurer and director of the Chicago & Atchison Bridge Company; president and director of the Nonesuch Mining Company; director of the Kalamazoo, Allegan & Grand Rapids Railway Company; director of the Citizens' Savings & Loan Association, and president and director of the American Sheet & Boiler Plate Company.

Mr. Wade was a man of high intellectuality and distinctive culture, having a keen appreciation of all the elements which go to make up the more elevated conditions of life. He was an excellent



THE WADE HOMESTEAD, CLEVELAND, OHIO.

linguist, speaking German and French with great fluency, and was a talented musician, doing much to advance a popular appreciation of this as well as other forms of art. As a business man he had a remarkable capacity for the handling of multitudinous details, and yet a concentration which enabled him to make everything work to desired ends. He was an accurate accountant and expert draftsman, and was well versed in both theoretical and applied mechanics. He was liberal and tolerant in his religious views, generally attending the Church of the Unity, of which he was treasurer. In politics he supported the Democratic party.

Randall P. and Anna R. (McGaw) Wade became the parents of two children, namely, Jeptha H., who was married to Ellen Garretson, of Cleveland, in 1878, and whose children are J. H. Wade, Jr., George Garretson Wade, and Helen Wade; and Alice L. Wade, who in 1879 became the wife of S. T. Everett, of Cleveland, and who is the mother of four children,—Randall P. Everett, Alice W. Everett, Homer S. Everett and Anna Ruth Everett.

In the midst of life's most useful and honorable activities Randall P. Wade was summoned from the scene of his earthly endeavors, his death occurring on the 24th of June, 1876. In the annals of Cleveland history his name will ever be held in lasting honor,—an honor which is due to one who lived to goodly ends. His widow is living (1897) and maintains her residence in the family homestead in Cleveland.

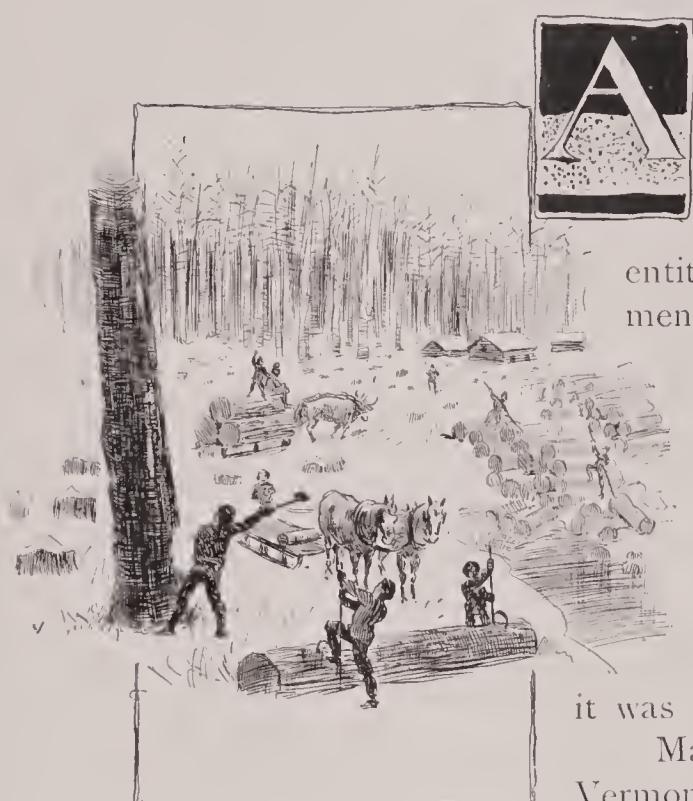




A.B. Watson

## AMASA BROWN WATSON,

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.



MONG the prominent citizens whom Michigan has been called upon to mourn during the past few years, none will be more genuinely missed than he whose name appears above. Such men as Major Watson have contributed much toward the material prosperity of the state, and their services are entitled to honorable recognition and praise, along with the achievements of statesmen and authors who have labored in other fields. His record, without a blemish or flaw, lies open to the sight of all men, but it was the privilege of those who touched him most intimately to fully know the great heart and strong nature of the man. As the falling of the sturdy oak that has witnessed the growth to maturity of surrounding forest trees leaves a vacant place which none can fill, so the loss of a man like the subject of this sketch deprives family and associates of a grand nature, within whose beneficent shadow it was good for all to dwell.

Major Watson was born at Worcester, Washington county, Vermont, February 27, 1826. His parents were Oliver and Ester

(Brown) Watson, and in his youth he received such educational advantages as were afforded by the district school and village academy. Even while a boy the traits that distinguished him in after life are said to have been strongly marked, and at an early age ambition urged him to leave the parental roof for the opportunities of the wider world and to seek the fortune that there awaited him. Accordingly we find him in Glens Falls, New York, where he acquired a taste for the lumbering industry, which proved to be the great occupation of his life. Endowed with good health, keen business ability, and of strictly moral principles, he here made substantial and trusty friends, who saw in him a capacity for managing larger interests, which they were developing further west; so, at the age of twenty-seven, he came to Newaygo, Michigan, where more extensive lumbering operations were being undertaken, and in June, 1853, participated in the organization of the Newaygo Lumber Company, in which he represented eastern capital. Pine lands were purchased in large tracts, a sawmill was erected, and the company soon became one of the most extensive lumbering concerns in the west.

The outbreak of the civil war found Mr. Watson, like hosts of others, engaged with business projects; but the rising tide of excitement and patriotism soon carried him into his country's service, and on August 19, 1861, he was commissioned major of the Eighth Regiment of Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and assigned to duty in General W. T. Sherman's expedition to Port Royal, South Carolina. The regiment participated in some very severe engagements. At the battle of Coosaw Ferry, South Carolina, which took place on New Year's day, 1862, the Seventy-ninth New York Regiment had reached the ferry without a contest, but when the Eighth Michigan marched toward the same point, a field battery of two guns opened a brisk fire of shells upon them. The regiment kept on their march, however, until two men had been wounded by the bursting of the shells, when, having reached their front, the first and tenth companies (A and B) were deployed as skirmishers

and ordered to charge the battery. These were followed by Company F,—the whole under command of Major Watson. The men advanced steadily and with perfect coolness against a constant fire of shells, which burst continually among them, but without in the least checking their advance. They approached so near that it was easy to hear the voices of the rebel officers, while it was impossible

to see the foe. Thus being warned by the commands overheard, the boys would drop to allow the shells to pass over them, and then fire; and when a hand to hand conflict became almost imminent the Twelfth South Carolina Infantry sprang out on the right and left of the artillery, and poured in a strong volley of musketry upon the line, Major Watson being one of the first to be wounded, receiving a ball through the thigh. He was removed to an adjacent farmhouse where his wound was dressed by Dr. R. B. Shank, the regimental surgeon. Good health and manly pluck worked wonders with the resolute Major, and he was soon able to be removed to his home in Michigan. Upon his recovery he reported for duty,

and on June 16, 1862, participated in the battle of James Island, where his horse was shot in the neck and instantly killed, but the more fortunate rider escaped unharmed. On September 10, 1862, he resigned his commission and was honorably discharged. Soon afterward he again became interested in the lumbering business, by purchasing an interest in a mill at Muskegon. He took charge of the sales of the manufactured product, and for this purpose removed his family to Chicago, where they were guests at the Palmer House during the great fire, but happily escaped without serious loss.

The Major had been well known in business circles at Grand Rapids since first coming to Michigan, and on November 14, 1873, he located permanently in that city. In 1881 he disposed of his lumbering interests at Muskegon and of his pine lands in Michigan, thus retiring from an occupation which had proved eminently successful; yet a business career had become so thoroughly a part of his life that he could not long remain inactive, and consequently he soon invested largely in southern pine lands, confining his purchases to Louisiana and Mississippi. In 1882 and 1883 he erected the fine residence on the southeast corner of Fulton and Sheldon streets, one of the most beautiful in the state, and on the first Christmas day spent by the family in the new home he presented it as a Christmas gift to his wife. He also became interested in the development of the manufacturing interests of Grand Rapids, in which he utilized his business generalship and large fortune to good advantage. Many of these owe their success in a large measure to the impetus they received from the fertile brain and large faith of Major Watson.

His connection with the banking interests of the Valley City was also of an enduring and beneficial nature. He was one of the chief moving spirits in bringing the Fourth National Bank into existence, and was a member of its first board of directors, and for several years its president. He was also a stockholder and member of the board of directors of the Kent County Savings Bank. The wise counsel, good judgment and far-seeing financial vision of Major Watson were ever at the service of these institutions, and his personal reputation was such as to inspire public confidence in them. He was also extensively interested in many other enterprises,—notably the Grand Rapids Street Railway Company, of which he was vice-president and a director at the time of his decease. He was a large stockholder in the Chicago, Kalamazoo & Saginaw Railroad Company, and one of its board of directors; president and a director of the Grand Rapids Brush Company; treasurer of the Grand Rapids Fire Insurance Company, of which he was also a director; a stockholder and director in the Grand Rapids Electric Light & Power Company, and had large interests in two of the local furniture companies for which Grand Rapids has become famous. These institutions and industries paid suitable tributes to his worth and memory.

Major Watson had always been a Republican and a firm believer in a tariff for the protection of American industries. With him it was not merely an inherited belief, but a thought-out conclusion, as the result of personal examination and business experience. He was one of those who held that every business man should exercise the right influence upon the conduct of civil affairs and not stand aloof and deplore public evils, while doing nothing to prevent or remove them. As a matter of right and duty, he believed in personal participation in all important political campaigns, local as



RESIDENCE OF MRS. A. B. WATSON, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

well as state and national. For this reason he was always active in political affairs, yet not because of any personal aspirations—indeed, every suggestion in that direction from the party leaders met with his firm refusal, since he had no desire to hold public office, although the positions offered were of an exalted character, such as mayor, governor and United States senator,—nominations for which were equivalent to an election. He preferred to serve in the ranks. He was, however, called upon to serve his party in several important instances when he could not well decline. He was elected a delegate to the national Republican convention, at Cincinnati, in 1876, and there he labored earnestly for the nomination of Hon. James G. Blaine; yet when Governor Hayes was announced as the successful candidate he was among the first to pledge the support of Michigan. He was also a delegate to the national convention of 1880, at Chicago, where he again worked diligently for Blaine, but cheerfully accepted Garfield as the standard-bearer. The national convention of 1888 again found him a delegate, but this time Michigan had a candidate for the presidency, in General Russell A. Alger, who had no more tireless worker in his behalf than Major Watson.

The Republicans of Michigan, indeed, lost a leader by the death of this patriotic and faithful member of the party. Perhaps the following resolution, adopted, at the time of his demise, by the Kent County Republican Club, may well be taken to voice the sentiment of the party in the state:

**RESOLVED,** That in the death of its first president this club has lost a faithful and efficient officer whose wise counsel and generous services have been of inestimable value to this organization; that we will always cherish a grateful recollection of his life, so unselfishly devoted to the principles and success of the Republican party; that while high honors and official places were at all times open to him, with a rare self-abnegation he labored only for the advancement of others; that his warm, patriotic heart was full of impulses prompted only by love of country; that he was a tower of strength to the Republican party and to the cause of good government; that he has left the enduring record of a useful and honorable life; and that a fragrant and beautiful memory will always be associated in our hearts with the patriotic citizen, the warm-hearted friend, the true American, Amasa B. Watson.

On December 30, 1886, Major Watson became a companion of the first class of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the only order to which he ever became attached. The following resolutions were sent to the family by the order at the time of his death:

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, COMMANDERY  
OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.**

Circular No. 13. }  
Series 1888. }  
Whole No. 47. }

In Memoriam: Amasa B. Watson, Major Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Died at Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 18, 1888.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, October 15, 1888.

(Read at a stated meeting of the commandery, October 3, 1888.)

Amasa B. Watson, Major Eighth Regiment, Michigan Volunteer Infantry, August 19, 1861; wounded in action at Port Royal, South Carolina, January 1, 1862; resigned September 10, 1862, and honorably discharged; born February 27, 1826; died September 18, 1888; a companion of the first class of Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Michigan Commandery, December 30, 1886.

**TO THE MICHIGAN COMMANDERY, MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

*Commander and Companions:* Your committee designated to prepare suitable resolutions pertaining to the death of our late companion, Major Amasa B. Watson, respectfully present the following report:

The membership of our commandery has again been broken,—another honored name transferred from the army of the living to the ever lengthening roll of those already gone to join the invisible post beyond. In obedience to a commander greater than any who have led us from victory to victory, one of our esteemed companions, Major A. B. Watson, has been mustered into that “greater army” which for multitude no man can number. Peacefully he sleeps beneath “the low green tents whose curtains never swing out,” the sentinels of heaven standing body guard around him until the sound of reveille.

Expressive of our own sorrow and alike appreciative of the sterling qualities of our friend, we offer the following resolutions:

**RESOLVED,** That in this sudden bereavement we, as companions, record our testimony as to his unqualified excellence of character, whose sympathy of heart and strength of purpose made him the friend of all. For these he was revered by a community, and mourned by us, his associates.

**RESOLVED,** That not alone by us is this affliction realized, but a deeper grief has fallen upon those bound by fonder ties than ours of companionship, and to that sorrowing family we extend our heartfelt sympathies.

**RESOLVED,** That this commandery offer to the family their sincere condolence, and that a copy of this report be forwarded to them.

B. R. PIERCE, Brevet Major-General, United States Volunteers. }  
G. K. JOHNSON, Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, United States Volunteers. } Committee.  
CHAS. W. EATON, Captain, United States Volunteers. }

By command of { BREVET BRIGADIER-GENERAL HENRY B. CLIFTON, U. S. A., Commander.  
GEO. W. CHANDLER, Brevet Major, United States Volunteers, Recorder.

G. W. CHANDLER, Recorder.

(Official.)

Major Watson had been a friend to every movement having for its object the care of veteran soldiers and their destitute families. He was therefore one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Michigan Soldiers' Home, and naturally took great pride in having it located adjacent to his favorite city, serving as chairman of the finance committee which made the purchase of the site. After his death a new post of the Grand Army of the Republic, bearing his name, was mustered in at Grand Rapids, and later a woman's relief corps was organized as auxiliary thereto.

On October 7, 1856, Major Watson was married, at Newaygo, Michigan, to Miss Martha A. Brooks, daughter of John A. and Lucina (Parsons) Brooks, of Newaygo, Rev. Courtney Smith, of Grand Rapids, officiating. No children came of this union, but upon the death of Mrs. William J. Mead (Mrs. Watson's youngest sister), August 11, 1873, Major and Mrs. Watson adopted her four small children, whose names and ages were as follows: John A. Brooks Mead, six years; James Andrew, five years; Julia Agnes, three years; and William Watson, five days. The father of the children died in less than five months after his wife, and the children were greatly beloved by their foster-parents. In a letter to his sister, just prior to his own death, Major Watson, in referring to the children, said: "They are all model children that a king might be proud of." They received every advantage, educational and otherwise, that could be bestowed upon them, and made excellent use of their opportunities. John A. B. Mead, the eldest, graduated at the Michigan Military Academy, at Orchard Lake, in 1884, being then seventeen years of age, and taking the highest honors in a class of eleven. James A. Mead entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at Boston, in 1886, and was admitted without condition. Julia A. finished, at the age of seventeen, a course of study in the Misses Master's school for young ladies, at Dobbs Ferry, on the Hudson, New York. William W. had completed a course in Professor Swensberg's Grand Rapids Business College,—in which all the boys were honorable students,—and at the time of his uncle's death was about to enter the Michigan Military Academy. The children were all at home when suddenly bereft of their benefactor, and they greatly mourned their irreparable loss.

On the evening of September 18, 1888, Major Watson bade farewell to his loving household, to take a train for Chicago, apparently in his usual health. He had just entered the sleeping car when he was seen to fall. Friendly hands at once came to his aid, but, alas, it was of no avail! He was beyond the reach of human assistance. The family were summoned to the scene, and in just fifty minutes from the time he left his happy home, the doors were again thrown open to admit his lifeless body. The cause of death was pronounced heart failure, though it had never been supposed that he was subject to troubles of that nature. The funeral, in charge of the Loyal Legion, was held on Sunday, September 23d, at the family residence. From nine o'clock in the morning, until one o'clock in the afternoon, the body lay in state at his elegant mansion near the park, and a throng of visitors constantly streamed up the steps and through the hall, to take a last look at the well known and beloved features of the dead. Every rank in life was represented. All were reverent and respectful, and many a tear was seen to gather in eyes that fondly looked and reluctantly turned away. The cloth-covered casket stood just within the bay-window in the front parlor, and grouped around it were the many floral offerings of the comrades and friends of the deceased. At the head was a pillow of roses, bearing the word "Uncle," wrought in purple immortelles, and surmounted by a crown of roses exquisitely beautiful,—a tribute from the adopted children. Suspended from the ceiling was a floral badge of the Loyal Legion, and at the front was a button of the order,—both from the members of the local commandery. In addition to the thousands of the citizens of Grand Rapids who filled the park long before the hour appointed for the obsequies, there were many prominent people in attendance from Chicago and all parts of Michigan. Special trains were run from Detroit, Kalamazoo and Muskegon, to accommodate the large number of personal friends of the deceased. The Detroit train was composed of the private cars of General R. A. Alger and General Manager J. B. Mulliken, which brought the members of the Loyal Legion. The services, beginning at three o'clock, were conducted by the Rev. Charles Fluhrer, D. D., pastor of the Universalist church, assisted by the Rev. Campbell Fair, D. D., rector of St. Mark's church, Episcopal. Rising, Dr. Fluhrer said: "In this hour, when the heart is filled with great sorrow, and need of strength beyond its own is deeply felt, let us seek it in the words which come down to us freighted with the hope and consolation of ages." He then read appropriate passages from the scriptures and offered a prayer. Then a quartet rendered "He Peacefully Sleeps," after which Dr. Fluhrer spoke the following appreciative words:

There is a sense in which every man rears his own monument and writes his own epitaph, known to all who may give heed thereto; but there are always marked instances in which the character is so clear and the lines of life so distinctly drawn that all instinctively recognize them. He in the presence of whose form we are gathered was one of these. Whoever among us may be borne to yonder cemetery, it will be long ere another passes who will be followed by so many

genuine mourners and who will leave so great a vacancy in our midst. Reared among the rugged hills of New England, like many another who came into this western land in the earlier days, here he dwelt until he became a part of our organic life, like one of our institutions. The strong, stately form, so familiar on our streets that a stranger in passing would turn and look at it again, lived among us in all the majesty of its grand simplicity, like one of our native pines in the forest. Here, through the honest exercise of his allotted powers, he was blessed with the accumulated gain that came to his hand; and yet the man all the time grew more rapidly than the fortune, as if to show us what a worthy thing wealth may be when used to subserve the noble purposes of a nature that has learned its higher value. How largely this man, whose noble frame was the symbol of a nobler spirit, was identified with our interests. How many are the industries that fill the air with their music which owe their accelerated pulses to the energy which he infused into them. How large was his public spirit, that always took the highest pride in the city of his adoption, and which made him among the foremost to generously aid all enterprises and to contribute to every charity that involved the public good, and yet unostentatious withal; for his was a nature as severely simple as a Doric column. The public enterprise and beneficence were surpassed by those streams of private benevolence that flowed from a sympathetic nature, thereby making "the blessing of him that was ready to perish come upon him, and causing the widow's heart to sing for joy." Such was something of the man who rises before us to-day, as yesterday he walked our streets,—a man who "stood four-square to all the winds that blew;" upon whose patriotism his country never called in vain; sagacious in council; firm in his convictions, yet most gracious in yielding to others; true as steel in his integrity, and so genial that, while the casual acquaintance was won by his manner, those who enjoyed his intimate friendship prized it above the telling. There were, too, the more sacred and tender qualities, shared most by those who found him so true and thoughtful and loving in the home, which must ever be consecrated by his spirit; but these are too hallowed to be spoken by other than household lips.

"His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, this was a man."

The spirit of that life, as of the religion which he lived, may well be expressed in the lines of George Eliot:

"O may I join the choir invisible  
Of those immortal dead who live again  
In minds made better by their presence; live  
In pulses stirred to generosity,  
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn  
For miserable aims that end in self,  
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars  
And with their mild persistence urge man's search  
To vaster issues."

It has been good for us that we have been touched with that life; for his companions in years to have felt his large and generous impulses; for the young men to have learned from him lessons of fidelity, gentleness and honor; for those who loved him most to have inherited a hallowed joy and memory. Yet we are prone to pause and ask, Was there no other way than this? Why was not that life, in the plenitude of its powers and the largeness of its possibilities, continued through the years? There comes no answer save that of our hearts, which in their love and yearning cannot give up their own. Shall we not trust this quenchless longing of the soul as the divine pledge of our immortality? Does not a life of so many noble qualities, yet with imperfections still, appear broken and thwarted unless it meets its other self in the complete growth of its being? Let us cherish the thought that it passes out of sight only to fulfill its larger destiny, and that in the unveiled future, where it is so light that our blinded eyes cannot now see, all shall be revealed,

"For love will dream, and faith will trust,  
Since He who knows our need is just,  
That somehow, somewhere, meet we must"

In cherishing his virtues and holding his memory dear, let us pray that a double measure of his spirit may rest upon us all.

Following the address, the choir sang "Nearer My God to Thee," after which Dr. Fair read the Episcopal prayer for the dead. The remains were then borne from the house, and the solemn procession formed in the following order: Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, old settlers, Loyal Legion, clergymen, hearse, pall-bearers, family, relations and friends; while thousands in carriages and on foot joined the cortége, which slowly passed through the streets to the Valley City cemetery. Arrived at the cemetery the members of the Grand Army of the Republic formed in line on either side of the roadway, with colors draped and heads uncovered, and, as the procession passed, the muffled drum was beaten. The remains were deposited in the vault, and in dismissing the assembled gathering, Dr. Fluhrer said: "An old German saying has come down to us that a man makes three kinds of friends in this world,—the gains he accumulates, the hearts whom he loves, and his good works. The wealth is the first to leave him when death lays its hand upon the form; the loved ones go to the tomb, turn from it and pass to their homes; but his good works follow him through all the years, praising his name and making hallowed his memory. So let it be with him!"

Large as was the number participating in the ceremonies, it did not contain a tithe of those who were bowed down with grief. In many a humble home, whither his beneficent hand of charity had reached, there was sincere sorrow, and, indeed, the whole community felt his loss, as of one who could ill be spared, and as one whose life in their midst had been most potent for good.









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